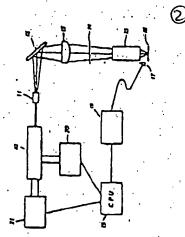
(1:) 63-86593 (A) (43) 16.4.1988 (15, JP

(21) Appl. No. 61-232417 (22) 30.9.1986

(71) KOMATSU LTD (72) YASUHIRO NOZUE(4) (51) Int. Cl. H01S3/134,G03F7/20,H01L21/30

PURPOSE: To obtain highly exact exposure amount and exposure time on the occasion of the next laser oscillation, by repeating the setting of the following in accordance with the number of times of pulse discharge until a specified amount of exposure is obtained, and, controlling the number of times of pulse discharge so as to be in the desired range; charging voltage of pulse discharge, addition amount of halogen gas to laser gas, and exchange amount

CONSTITUTION: The amount of output energy per pulse detected by an exposure amount detection circuit 18 at the time of laser exposure is integrated, and the number of pulses at the time is also counted. The integrated amount of energy and a specified amount of energy indicating the optimum amount of exposure previously determined are compared. energy indicating the optimum amount of exposure previously determined are compared. The integration of energy is continued till the integrated amount of energy reaches the specific amount of energy. When the integrated amount of energy becomes equal to the specific amount of energy, a CPU-19 interrupts the laser oscillation. And compares the number of counted pulses and the specified optimum number of pulses. According to the result of the comparison, a charging voltage control part 20 and a gas circuistion control part 21 are controlled. Thus the exposure amount and the number of pulses in the next laser oscillation after a specified period are controlled.



(54) EXCIMER LASER DEVICE

(43) 24.5.1988

11) 63-119592 (A) (43) 24.5.1988 (21) Appl. Va 61-266007 (22) 7.11.1986

(71) MATSDEHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD (72) KUNIAKI FUKAYA(2)
(51) Int. Cl'. AQIS3/223

PURPOSE: To make it possible to extend the operating life of a rare-gas-halide based excimer laser by making the composition ratio of the halide gas in constituent gas, which is seared in a container, larger than an optimum value.

CONSTITUTION: The composition ratio of halide based gas in constituent gas in a rare gas halide based excimer laser oscillator is made larger than the optimum value. The halide based gas is exponelially decreased with respect to the number of exciting pulses. Meanwhile, when the composition ratio of the halide based gas is larger than the optimum value, the output is decreased from the output at the time of the optimum value. Therefore, when the composition ratio of the halide based gas is hade larger than the optimum value, the output is gradually increased as the pulses are being excited. When the halide based gas is decreased, and the optimum value is reached, the maximum output is obtained. As the pulse excitation is further performed, the output is gradually decreased, and the life is reached. As a result, the life is clongated to a large

(SI) ENERGY QUANTITY CONTROL EQUIPMENT

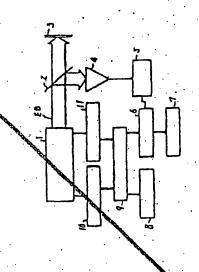
(11) 4-76937(A) (43) 13.1.1992 (19) JP

(21) Appl. No. 2-109291 (72) 25.4.1990 (71) NIKON CORP (72) KAZUAKI SUZUKI

(51) Int. Cl4, H0153/104,G03F7/20,H01L21/027

PURPOSE: To always control energy chantity excellently, by adequately taking in applied voltage and oscillation energy quantity for each unit pulse count or each unit time, and updating the relational equation between them by opera tion.

CONSTITUTION: A computing element 6 takes in data of voltage applied to an energy oscillation spece (or actual charged voltage at the time of energy oscillation) and oscillation energy quantity, for each unit pulse count or each unit time, and updates in order, by operation, the relational equation between the applied volvage and the oscillation energy quantity, which is previously stored in a storage means 7. Hence, when variation with time is generated in the relation between the applied voltage or charged voltage and the oscillation energy quantity, the relational equation expressing them is adequately updated in accordance with the variation with time. Thereby superior energy quantity control is always achieved.



& energy quantity availating part, & 100 equipments control part. To trigger control part.

(Translation of s. -63-865341

1. Title of the Invention

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OUTPUT CONTROL OF EXCIMER LASER

2. Claims

(1) A method for output control of an excimer laser which makes laser oscillation by exciting laser gas consisting of a mixture gas of at least rare gas, halogen gas and buffer gas by pulse discharges, wherein:

the number of pulse discharges at which an exposure quantity becomes a predetermined quantity is counted when exposing; and

when the exposure is stopped, a charging voltage for the pulse discharges, an adding amount of the halogen gas to the laser gas and an exchange amount of the laser gas are re-set according to the counted number of pulse discharges, thereby controlling to make the number of pulse discharges a value within a desired range.

(2) An apparatus for output control of an excimer laser which makes laser oscillation by exciting laser gas consisting of a mixture gas of at least rare gas, halogen gas and buffer gas by pulse discharges, which comprises:

means for counting a number of pulse discharges until an exposure quantity becomes a predetermined quantity;

means for re-setting a charging voltage for the pulse discharge, an adding amount of the halogen gas to the laser gas and an exchange amount of the laser gas in correspondence with a counted value of the counting

means s as to control the number of pulse discharges to a desired number of times.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention (Field of Industrial Use)

The present invention relates to an excimer laser which is suitable as a light source for exposure of a semiconductor production apparatus, and more particularly to a method and apparatus for output control of the excimer laser.

(Prior Art)

The excimer laser oscillates a laser by scaling a mixture gas of rare gas (Ar, Kr, Xa), halogen (Fe, HCl) and buffer gas (He, Ne) as laser gas into a chamber and exciting the laser gas by making a pulse discharge or the like between resonators consisting of a total reflection mirror and an outgoing mirror. It can make highly efficient and high power oscillation, and particularly in view of its non-coherent characteristic, its application to photolithography and the like is being proceeded.

Conventionally, the excimer laser described above includes a type which controls output as shown in the flowchart of Fig. 3. In the drawing, step 101 detects output energy per pulse, and step 102 samples output energy detected for a predetermined number (N) of sampling. Then, step 103 calculate the mean value of output energy per pulse. And, it is compared with the mean value of predetermined output energy (step 104).

According to the compared result, step 105 adjusts a charging voltage, an exchange amount of the laser gas and an adding amount of halogen gas to the laser gas, and feedback control is made so that the mean value of the output energy becomes the predetermined mean value before an exposure time expires (step 106).

(Problems to be solved by the Invention)

For the excimer laser, however, it is periodically controlled to have an exposure time of about 0.2 second and an exposure suspension time of about 0.8 second. Therefore, the exposure is completed before the output energy per pulse is stabilized. Accordingly, the laser output is hard to stabilize, and it is difficult to make high-precision exposure control. And, where the above-described output control method is used to obtain high-precision exposure, the exposure time is long, and it is hard to keep high-precision exposure time.

The present invention was achieved in view of the circumstances described above, and it is an object of the invention to provide a method and apparatus for output control of an excimer laser capable of obtaining high-precision exposure and exposure time.

(Means and Action for solving the Problems)

The present invention counts the number of pulse discharge until a predetermined exposure quantity is obtained, re-sets a charging voltage of the pulse discharge, an adding amount of the halogen gas to the laser gas

and a changing amount of the laser gas according to the number of pulse discharge, and controls to make the number of the pulse discharge a value within a predetermined range, so that the exposure quantity and the exposure time for the next laser oscillation can be controlled with high accuracy.

(Embodiment)

An embodiment of the invention is described in detail with reference to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

Fig. 1 shows one embodiment using an output control device of the excimer laser according to the invention

for a reduced size projection exposure device. In Fig. 1, laser light from an excimer laser 10 is led to a reticule 14 through an integrator 11 having its optical axis adjusted, a reflection mirror 12 and a condenser lens 13. Thus, a micro pattern formed on the reticule 14 is transferred from the reticule 14 to a wafer 16 through a reduced size projection lens 15. A detector 17 such as a photodiode is disposed in the neighborhood of the wafer 16. The detector 17 detects scattered light being reflected from the wafer 16 during exposing. Output of the detector 17 is entered an exposure quantity detection circuit 18, which calculates an output energy quantity per pulse of laser light for exposing the wafer 16 from the output of the detector 17 and outputs the calculated value to a central processing unit (CPU) 19. The CPU 19 controls a charging voltage control section 20 and a gas circulation

control section 21 so that the input energy quantity reaches a given exposure quantity by the predetermined number of pulse discharging.

Then, control of the laser output is described with reference to the flowchart of Fig. 2. First, when laser exposure is effected, the output energy quantity per pulse detected by the exposure quantity detecting circuit 18 is calculated in step 201, and the number of pulses at the time is also counted (step 202). Then, the CPU 19 compares the energy quantity calculated in step 203 with given energy indicating the predetermined optimum exposure of the wafer and continues to add up the energy until the total energy quantity becomes the given energy quantity. When the total energy quantity becomes equal to the given energy quantity, the CPU 19 stops the laser oscillation and compares the number of pulse counted with the predetermined optimum number of pulse in step 204. Based on the compared result, the charging voltage control section 20 and the gas circulation control section 21 are controlled to adjust the charging voltage, the adding amount of the halogen gas to the laser gas and the changing amount of the laser gas (step 205), thereby controlling the exposure quantity and the number of pulse in the next laser oscillation performed after a predetermined period of time.

The controlling operation of the CPU 19 in step 205 above has a predetermined priority, and when the CPU 19 detects a decrease in the laser output by the detection output of the detector 17, the control operations to make the adjustment described above are performed one by

one according to the predetermined priority and stopped when the laser output is recovered.

In other words, when the CPU 19 detects a decrease in the laser output according to the flowchart of Fig. 2, it controls, for example, the charging voltage control section 20 as a first step to adjust to increase the charging voltage. When the laser output is recovered by this adjustment, the control is terminated. But, if not, the gas circulation control section 21 is for example controlled to adjust a second step so to add the halogen gas to the laser gas. When the laser output is recovered by this halogen gas adding adjustment, the control is terminated. But, if the laser output cannot be recovered by this control yet, the next step controls for example the gas circulation control section 21 to exchange the laser gas, thereby attempting to recover the laser output the next time and afterward.

And, the control described above is repeated until a predetermined number of chips to be exposed on the wafer 16 is attained (step 206).

Items adjusted by the control made by the CPU 19 are not limited to the three items described above. For example, items (1) a removing amount of impurities is adjusted by controlling the circulating amount of the gas, (2) neon gas is added to the buffer gas, and (3) a gas circulating velocity is adjusted may be added, and any of them may be selected as required. Besides, the scattering light from the wafer was detected by the detector in the embodiment, but the position of the detector may be adjusted so to detect light leaking from the reticule. In addition, an exposure meter

can be used to directly detect the exposure quantity of the laser light for exposing the wafer so to control the laser output.

Therefore, the present invention adjusts the laser charging voltage, the laser gas exchanging amount and the halogen gas adding amount when the laser exposure is stopped, so that it is not necessary to use a high-speed processing IC, and the cost can be reduced, and the size can be made compact.

(Effects of the Invention)

As described above, the present invention re-sets the laser charging voltage, the laser gas exchanging amount and the halogen gas adding amount so to control the number of pulse discharge for obtaining the predetermined exposure quantity to the number of desired pulse discharge. Thus, the high precision exposure quantity and exposure time can be obtained.

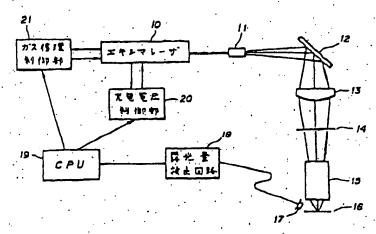
4. Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a diagram showing one embodiment using a device for output control of an excimer laser according to the invention for a reduced size projection exposure device, Fig. 2 is a diagram showing a flowchart of the output control shown in Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a diagram showing a conventional flowchart.

10: Excimer laser

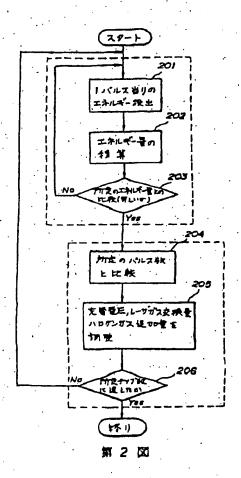
- 17: Detector
- 18: Exposure quantity detecting circuit
- 19: Central processing unit (CPU)
- 20: Charging voltage control section
- 21: Gas circulation control section
- Fig. 1
- 21 Gas circulation control section
- 10 Excimer laser
- 20 Charging voltage control section
- 18 Exposure quantity detecting circuit
- 11 Integrator
- 12 Reflection mirror
- 13 Condenser lens
- 14 Reticule
- 15 Reduced size projection lens
- 16 Wafer
- Fig. 2
- Start
- 201 Detection of energy per pulse
- 202 Calculation of the energy quantity
- 203 Comparison with predetermined energy quantity (equal or not)
- 204 Comparison with predetermined number of pulses

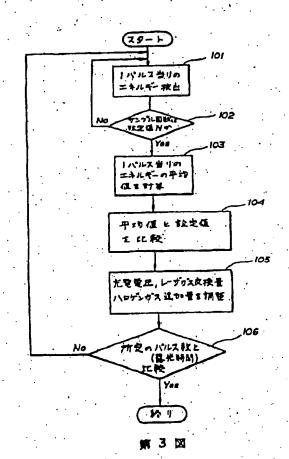
205 Adjustment of char	ging voltag	e, laser	gas excha	nging amour	it, halogen
gas					
adding amount					
206 Is a predetermined	number of o	chips ac	hieved?		
End					
Fig. 3		-		• •	
Start			· .		
101 Detection of energy	per pulse		• • •		
102 Is the number of sar	npling equa	ul to pre	determine	d value N?	
103 Calculation of the m	ean value c	of energ	y per puls	,	
104 Comparison between	n the mean	value a	nd the pre	determined	value.
105 Adjustment of charg	nng voltage	laser	gas exchar	iging amoun	t, halogen
gas				·	
adding amount		• .		•	
106 Comparison with a p	redetormir	od num	bor of pul	ses (exposur	e time)
End ⊃.					
2		,			



· 第 1 図

11・・・・インテクレータ 12・・・・ 及れてミラー 13・・・・コンデンサーレンズ 14・・・・レチクル 13・・・・カース 16・・・・ウェハ





砂日本国特许庁(JP).

① 特許出 四公路

◎ 公開特許公報(A) 昭63-86593

②発明の名称 エキシマレーザの出力制御方法およびその装置

②特 頤 昭61→232417

⊕出 願 昭61(1986)9月30日

路 明 老 野 宋 康 博 神奈川県横浜市戸塚区尾月14-18

弁理士 木村 高久

创出 阻 人 株式会社小松製作所 東京都港区赤坂2丁目3番6号

20 es 112

1 17 18 0 4 16

の代・理

2. 羽野悪家の韓語

(1) 少なくとも希がス、ハロゲンガスおよびパッファ ガスの混合ガスからなる レーサガスをパルス 放送によって励足させることによりレーザ爪投を行う エキシマレーザの出力制 野方法において、選光時に、貴光量が別を登になる前級パルス放響の回放を針数し、

発光中止片に、抜計散したパルス放電の凹板に のじて前記パルス放電の充電気圧、レーザガスへ の前にハロゲンガスの追加溢かよびレーザガスの 交換最を可設定し、もって前にパルス放電の回覧 が所型の前回内の回になるよう制御することを判 世とするエキシマレーザの出力制御方法。

(2)少なくとも希がス、ハロゲンガスおよびパ

ッファガスの最合ガスからなるレーサガスをパルス放射によて助配させることによりレーサ発量を 行うエキシマレーサの出力制御は取にないて、

異光泉が所定会になるまでの計品パルス放電の D社を計数する予放と、

前記パルス飲食の母散を外達の母散に制即すべくが記パルス飲食の充業者圧、レーザガスへの内 記パログンガスの追加量およびレーザガスの交換 難を前記計数する手及による計せぬに対応して再 数をする手衣と

を見えたことを背後とするエキシマレーサの出 力割到設置。

3. 罪明の評価な説明

(展集上の利用分野)

本見明は、半導体製造製図のמ光用光頭として 好適なエキシマレーサに認し、特にエキシマレー サの出力制御方性がよびその装置に関する。

「世界の技術)

エキシマレーサは、並ガス(AF,KF,

メ・)、ハロゲン(Fis. HCJ) およびパップァガス(His. Ne)の配合ガスをレーザガスとしてチャンパ内に対入し、全反射ミラーと出引ステンパ内に対大し、全反射ミラーとが引成る共極計画で的記しーサガスをパルス放送等によって致起させることによりレーサ電気を行なうものであり、高効率、高出力に変せられたうことができ、特にその非コヒーレントな性質からフェトリングラフィー等への存用が進められている。

世無、このようなエキシマレーザでは、553 Maのフローチャートに示すように、出力が移ってうちのがある。配において、まずステップ101で1パルス当りの出力エネルギーをは出し、ステップ102で所定のサンプル四数 N だけは出し、ステップ103で1パルス 当時の出力エネルギーの平均値とでうの出力エネル・ローの平均値とでけら(ステップ105 で比較的現に応じて、元母を圧、レーザガスの交換的、レーザガスの公開

国数を計数し、低パルス状态の四数に応じてパルス 就電の方面電圧、レーザリスへのハロゲンガス の通知量がよびレーザガスの交換 最ぞ可認定して 的紀 パルス数策の回数が所受の組四内の切になる よう に制御することによって次のレーザ北段時に おける 質光量 およ ひ質光時間を展現 反に制御することができる。

(実践时)

本 特別の実施例を乗り回りまれる図の図面にも とづき詳細に収明する。

第1回は本見明に気むエキシマレーザの出力割 物質型をは小位影響光器圏に加いた一実傾倒を示すらのである。第1回において、エキシマレーザ 1 ロからのレーサ光は、光柏智祉がなされたイン テグレータ11。反射ミラー1 2 およびコンデン サーレンズ13を介してレチクル14に満かれる。 これによりレチクル14に対政された最初パター ンは、レチクル14から縮小位野レンズ15を介 してウェハ16上に転写されている。上記ウェハ 1 6 の16には、フォトダイオード等のディテク グンガスの追加量を図答して成光時間が切れるまで (ステップ 1 0 8) に出力エネルギーの平均圏が駐尾平均層になるようにフィードバック制御していた。

- (見別が解決しようとする問題点)

本規則は上記史情に高みなされたもので、 高度 確な対光型と関光質 四を切ることのできるエギン マレーザの出力 制能力をおよびその 英章を貫伏す ることを目的とする。

(問題点を解決するための手段および作用) 本民助は、別定電光量になるまでパルスは元の

クー17が試置されており、このアイテクター、17位置光程にウェハ16から反射する故光光を 技出している。ディテクター17の出力は、反光 危後出回は18に入力され、武光 位 校出回は18に入力され、武光 位 校出回は18に入力され、武光 位 校出回は18に入力され、5 かェハ16を発 するレーサ光の1パルス当りの出力エネル半 当 を設算し、その値を中央処理回ば(CPU)19 に出力する。CPU 19 以入力するエネルギー型 が所述のパルス 在室の回路で一定の 成光 旦に が所述のパルス 在室の回路で一定の 成光 旦に が所述のパルス 在室の回路で 2 0 の と びガス 気 環 切 即 む 2 1 を制卸する。

ところで上記ステップ 2 0 5 における C P U 1 9 の り 節 ひ 作には、 所定の 顧先 原位 が付けられて おり、 C P U 1 8 は ディナクター 1 7 の 核 出出力に 上り レーサ出力の 低下を 核 出する と、 上記 離 壁 を 行 わせる 別 即 む 作を 双 定 の 優 先 原位 に 従って 1 つ づつ 実 行 し、 レーザ 出力 が 回 観 し た 時 点 で この 別 町 前 作を 中止 する。

すなわち、CPU19は前2回のフローチャートにもとづきレーサ出力の低下を放出した場合、

歯虫 速度を調整するおの項目を加え、この調整項目の中から通宜に選択するようにしてもよい。また実施側ではウェハからの放乱光をディテクターでは、レチクル上からも光を検出するように対策分けを用いてウェハモ競光するレーサポの質が最も直接検出し、レーサ出力の例如をすることも可能である。

したがって、本界切では、レーザの充地電圧、 レーザガス交換量およびハロゲンガス遊組員の類 観をレーサの異光中止時に行うので、英雄処理の ICを使用しなくてもよく、コストの別様と小型 化を図ることができる。

(別期の効果)

以上説明したことく、本知明は、所定の言先皇になるパルス位置の回数を所望のパルス故間の回 位に制御すべくレーサの充電間圧、レーサガス交 後望およびハロゲンガス追加置を再設定するので、 気間度な哲光量および質光時間を明ることができ

そして、ウェハ18上に保光される所定のナップ放に達するまで上記制物が終り返される(ステッフ208)。

たか、CPU18の制御によって調整される項目は上記3種に担ちず、例えば、①ガスの製風量を制御することにより不能物の除去量を製造する、②パッファガスにネオンガスを遺加する、②ガス

- a -

4. 図画の成単な説明

取1回は、本気明に係るエキシマレーザの出力 制助管理を販小投影路光度度に用いた一変統例を 余す四、第2回は第1回の出力制即のフローチャ ートを余す因、第3回は同じく艾来のフローチャ ートを余す回てある。

10-エキシマレーゲ、17-ディテクター、18- 質光量は出回時、19 中央処理回路 (CPU)、20--充電電圧制的部、21--ガス 低温制制的。

化型人并型士 木 柱 苺 久